

REMARKS

1. In response to the Office Action mailed September 17, 2010, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration. Claims 12, 13, 15, 17, 19, 20, 22-24, 30-33, 39-59 were last presented for examination. In the outstanding Office Action, claims 12, 20, 23, 24, 30-33, 39, 40, 47, 48, and 52-58 are rejected and claims 13, 15, 17, 19, 22, 41-46, 49-51 and 59 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. By the foregoing Amendments, claims 12, 13, 15, 17, 19, 22, 39, 42, 47, 50 and 57 have been amended, claims 41, 44 and 49 have been cancelled, and claim 60 has been added. Thus, upon entry of this paper, claims 12-13, 15-17, 19-20, 22-24, 30-33, 39-40, 42-43, 45-48 and 50-60 will be pending in this application. Of these thirty-two (32) claims, three claims (claims 12, 39 and 47) are independent.

2. Based upon the above Amendment and following Remarks, Applicants respectfully request that all outstanding objections and rejections be reconsidered, and that they be withdrawn.

Art of Record

3. Applicants acknowledge receipt of form PTO-892 listing additional references identified by the Examiner.

4. Applicants also thank the Examiner for returning the PTO/SB/08 forms submitted by Applicants on August 2, 2010, which has been initialed by the Examiner indicating the Examiner has considered the references cited therein.

Allowable Subject Matter

5. Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 13, 15, 17, 19, 22, 41-46, 49-51 and 59 would be allowable if written in independent form to include the limitation of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103 in view of Meadows

6. Claims 12, 20, 47, 48, 55 and 56 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,553,263 to Meadows et al., (hereinafter, “Meadows”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,994,876 to Canny et al., (hereinafter, “Canny”). Similarly, claims 23-24 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C §103(a) as being unpatentable over Meadows in view of Canny and U.S. Patent No. 6,922,591 to Single, (hereinafter, “Single”). Claim 52 is rejected under 35 U.S.C §103(a) as being unpatentable over Meadows in view of Canny in further view of U.S. Patent No. 6,049,210 to Hwang, (hereinafter, “Hwang”). Claims 53-54 are rejected under 35 U.S.C §103(a) as being unpatentable over Meadows in view of Canny in further view of Single.

7. In response, in order to advance prosecution, and without prejudice or disclaimer, Applicants hereby amend claim 12 to include the recitations of claim 44 (effectively placing claim 44 into independent form) and amend claim 47 to include the pertinent recitations of claim 49 (effectively placing claim 49 into independent form).

8. Because the Office Action indicates that claims 41, 44 and 49 would be allowable if placed into independent form, it is respectfully submitted that the rejections in view of Meadows are now moot.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103 in view of Munshi

9. Claims 31, 39 and 40 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,411,537 to Munshi et al., (hereinafter, “Munshi”) in view of Canny. Claim 30 is rejected under 35 U.S.C §103(a) as being unpatentable over Munshi in view of Canny in further view of Hwang. Claims 32-33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C §103(a) as being unpatentable over Munishi in view of Canny and Single.

10. In response, in order to advance prosecution, and without prejudice or disclaimer, Applicants hereby amend claim 39 to include the pertinent recitations of claim 41 (effectively placing claim 41 into independent form).

11. Because the Office Action indicates that claim 41 would be allowable if placed into independent form, it is respectfully submitted that the rejections in view of Munshi are now moot.

New Claims

12. New claim 60 has been added. This claim is allowable due to its dependency from claim 41, which is allowable. Support for new claim 60 can be found, among other places, in previously pending claim 41.

Conclusion

13. In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that this application is now in condition for allowance. A notice to this effect is respectfully requested.

14. Applicants reserve the right to pursue any cancelled claims or other subject matter disclosed in this application in a continuation or divisional application. Thus, cancellations and amendments of above claims, are not to be construed as an admission regarding the patentability of any claims.

15. It is not believed that extension for time or fees for net addition of claims are required, beyond those which may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, if additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned under 37 CFR §1.136(a), and any fees required therefore, including fees for net addition of claims, are hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 11-0855 under Order No. 62367-393331.

16. We respectfully request consideration of this response and believe that all of the requirements of 37 C.F.R 1.479(d) have been completed. The Director is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in the fees filed, asserted to be filed or which should have been filed herewith (or with any paper hereafter filed in this application by this firm) to our Deposit Account No. 11-0855.

Respectfully submitted,

/Michael G. Verga/
Michael G. Verga
Registration No. 39410

KILPATRICK STOCKTON LLP
1100 Peachtree Street
Suite 2800
Atlanta, Georgia 30309-4530
(404) 815-6500
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